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Congress of the United States
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February 15, 2005

The Honorable Roger Nober
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: STB Ex Parte No. 656

Dear Chairman Nober:

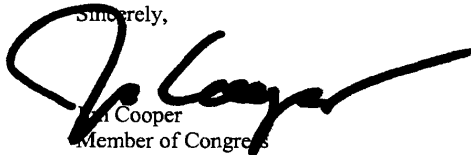
It has come to my attention that the Surface Transportation Board will soon decide whether or not to renew antitrust immunity for the National Classification Committee (NCC).

Some of my constituents have made me aware of their concerns regarding the continuation of antitrust immunity for the NCC and have questioned the need for the NCC to continue in a broadly deregulated economy. In particular they have expressed their concerns over the increased freight costs the implemented classification changes have in regards to their particular industry.

I believe that their concerns are valid and worth considering. Antitrust immunity for the NCC has financial implications that will affect important industries throughout my constituency. Moreover, the continuation of antitrust immunity in a deregulated transportation marketplace should be carefully reviewed. I urge you to give your full consideration to these questions and to the concerns of my constituents.

I thank you in advance for giving this matter the attention that it deserves. Please contact me at 615-736-5295 if you wish to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress